

Public Library Celebrates 100th Birthday

By Elizabeth Glasfeld

In 1879 the Town of Cohasset voted funds to create the Cohasset Free Public Library. The original collection was housed in the Town Hall and was moved to its present building, the gift of Harriet E.

and Sarah S. Pratt in memory of their father, Paul Pratt, in 1903.

If the first librarian could see the book collection today, he would be outraged at the inclusion of fiction — novels were considered to be a sinis-

ter influence and were not suitable reading for any age. He would, however, be pleased to see how the library has grown, and how much the library and the community have given to each other.

The Friends of the Cohasset Library have been saving their money for the past few years in anticipation of the library renovations. Now that the last of the plaster dust has been swept away, they have been able to celebrate the 100th birthday with some very fine presents.

On the outside, the handsome new clock face designed by Richard Dabrowski was installed. The gold leaf mackerel schooner featured on the clock is echoed in the newly gilded mackerel weathervane — both testimony to the fishing economy that built the town.

Attractive new directional signs lead through the door to various areas of the library and its special book collections. New books, large print books, reference books, children's books and more are all clearly marked in the new blue and white signs.

Less obvious, but much appreciated are the new window shades throughout the library, new record cabinets, staff room cabinets and children's room magazine racks.

The children are also the recipients of a fund to provide books for prizes in the summer reading program and Cohasset Library T-shirts for the children's volunteer program.

Much appreciated by the adult volunteers who manage the "books on wheels" program, are the sturdy new canvas bags for carrying books to and from the nursing homes.

This year, and for many years, the Friends have funded interesting programs for children and adults and have made memberships at the Museum of Science, New England Aquarium and Museum of Fine Arts available free to all library patrons. They also provide the volunteers who make possible many special services provided by the library.

All in all, the Friends of the Cohasset Library have given the Library a grand selection of 100th birthday presents. They will climax this 100th year with a grand birthday party at their annual meeting, Friday, June 8th. Edward Rowe Snow, popular local historian, will give a glimpse of the South Shore a hundred years ago, following which dessert and coffee will be served. The public is invited.

Farbush Gallery

Exhibitor

Rosalind Farbush of Cohasset is one of the opening exhibitors at the Vendo Nubes Gallery in Duxbury.

Her paintings are among those of several artists in the gallery which is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

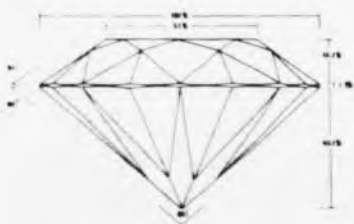
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